In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 20. No other amendments are presented.

1.   (original) An IP-telephony interface circuit arrangement, comprising:

a plurality of audio-endpoint devices adapted to process audio information coupled to respective audio channels; and

a data gateway circuit including multiple circuit paths coupled to the respective audio channels, the multiple circuit paths adapted to process the audio information, and including an interface circuit adapted to convert the audio information between a first audio-channel format and a second IP-data format; the data gateway circuit being configured and arranged with a first interface for communicatively coupling the audio information in the second IP-data format to an IP communications link and with a second interface for communicatively coupling the audio information in the first audio-channel format to the plurality of audio-endpoint devices.

2.   (original) The IP-telephony interface circuit arrangement of claim 1, wherein the data gateway circuit is configured and arranged to expand service to additional audio-endpoint devices.

3.   (original) The IP-telephony interface circuit arrangement of claim 2, wherein the data gateway circuit is configured and arranged to expand service to additional audio-endpoint devices in multiples of 2^N, where N is an integer.

4.   (original) The IP-telephony interface circuit arrangement of claim 1, wherein the data gateway circuit further includes a pair of dual SLICs for connecting up to four audio-endpoint devices.

5.   (original) A data gateway adapted to convert between IP and analog telephony data, the gateway comprising:

an IP telephony processor adapted to compress and format audio data for transmission over an IP network;

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an IP communications port adapted to connect to an IP communications link;

a POTS communications port adapted to connect to a POTS link.

6.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, further comprising a PCB having Codec integration software.

7.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, further comprising a unit level assembly including the PCB in a housing.

8.   (original) The data gateway of claim 6, wherein the Codec integration software includes libraries supplied as object code.

9.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, further adapted to evaluate a communications system, the gateway further comprising hardware and software tools to effect the evaluation.

10.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, further comprising a developer's kit having communication links, software, hardware, and a programming interlink, the gateway being adapted to couple at least one conventional telephony device to an IP telephony network.

11.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, wherein the gateway is adapted to use communications standards for VoIP.

12.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, wherein the gateway is adapted to interface with Microsoft NetMeeting software.

13.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, wherein the IP telephony processor is adapted to use DSP and command/control processing for compressing and formatting the audio data.

14.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, wherein the IP communications port includes an Ethernet MAC/PHY chip adapted to provide access to 10BaseT Ethernet and manage flow control.

15.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, further comprising a FLASH data memory for remotely programming the data gateway.

16.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, further comprising a data memory that includes at least one of: FLASH memory, SRAM memory, and DRAM memory.

17.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, wherein the IP telephony processor is remotely programmable.

18.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, further adapted to control a plurality of telephony calls simultaneously using a ring management process.

19.   (original) The data gateway of claim 5, wherein the IP communications link includes a broadband link.

20.   (canceled)